

handkerchief - was this not -

Drawer C7

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Curios and Relics

Clothing Accessories

Handkerchief - Assassination

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

HANDKERCHIEF Lincoln Carried on night of Assassination

A LINCOLN RELIC.

Handkerchief That He Carried on
Fatal Night Still Preserved.

There was recently exhibited as a leading attraction at a church fair in Philadelphia a large linen handkerchief that has an interesting history. It was in one of Abraham Lincoln's pockets on the night he was shot, and it bears evidence of the great tragedy in four spots of the President's blood. It is now the property of Mrs. Lucile Earp Moon, of Philadelphia, and the North American says of the story of the relic:

"Mrs. Moon inherited it from her maternal grandfather, Isaac Newton. He was one of the leading agricultural authorities in Pennsylvania during the middle of the last century, and when the Department of Agriculture was instituted as a branch of the national government he was appointed its first commissioner by President Lincoln.

"From his large farm, which is now the site of Morton and Rutledge, in Delaware County, he went to Washington, and while the head of the Department of Agriculture was not then, as now, a member of the Cabinet, there soon grew up between the capable Quaker farmer and the great President a strong friendship—a bond which led the former to accede to Lincoln's pressing invitation to accompany him to Ford's Theatre on the fatal night, despite his religious scruples.

"Newton went, as a mark of respect for his chief, but shortly after the play began he said to the President: 'If thee will excuse me, I think I will withdraw.'

"Within an hour came the shot that shook the world, and when the Commissioner of Agriculture next saw his friend, it was as a dying man.

"Shortly after the terrible event Mrs. Lincoln gave Mr. Newton a large lock of Lincoln's hair and this handkerchief.

"It is of sheer linen, nearly two feet square and of the tape edge sort then so popular and still carried by some men. The two hemmed edges are hand sewn, and in one corner is the name 'A. Lincoln,' worked in tiny square letters of red.

"Time has somewhat yellowed the flax, and the four small spots of blood, which are still plainly visible, are now brown. It has never been laundered since it came into the Newton family."

V
Paradise, Calif.

Rt. I Box 413

11/18/46

Sir:-

I believe you spoke in Salinas Calif. in Feb. of last year or maybe the year before on the life of Lincoln

We have sold our home there or could check with some of the women who attended that meeting. Anyways

I understand you are quite versed on the life of that National Hero and his wife. I too admire Mrs. Lincoln very much - I put on quite a program in my first school in El Dorado Co. here in Calif. That was in Feb. 1918 after the program a dear old

lady gave me the handkerchief Mrs. Lincoln had carried to the theater where Lincoln was shot.

It seemed her first husband was the U. S. Warden in one of the ^{National} prisons

(3.)

would have been valuable. The handkerchief
is of beautiful fine linen with lovely embroidery
it is very much larger than women's handker-
chiefs of 1946. This woman died not long
after I went to another school - since then
I have tried to find the name of the handker-
chief I had wondered if you could help any I
make - Thanking you for any suggestions, you could
make - I am

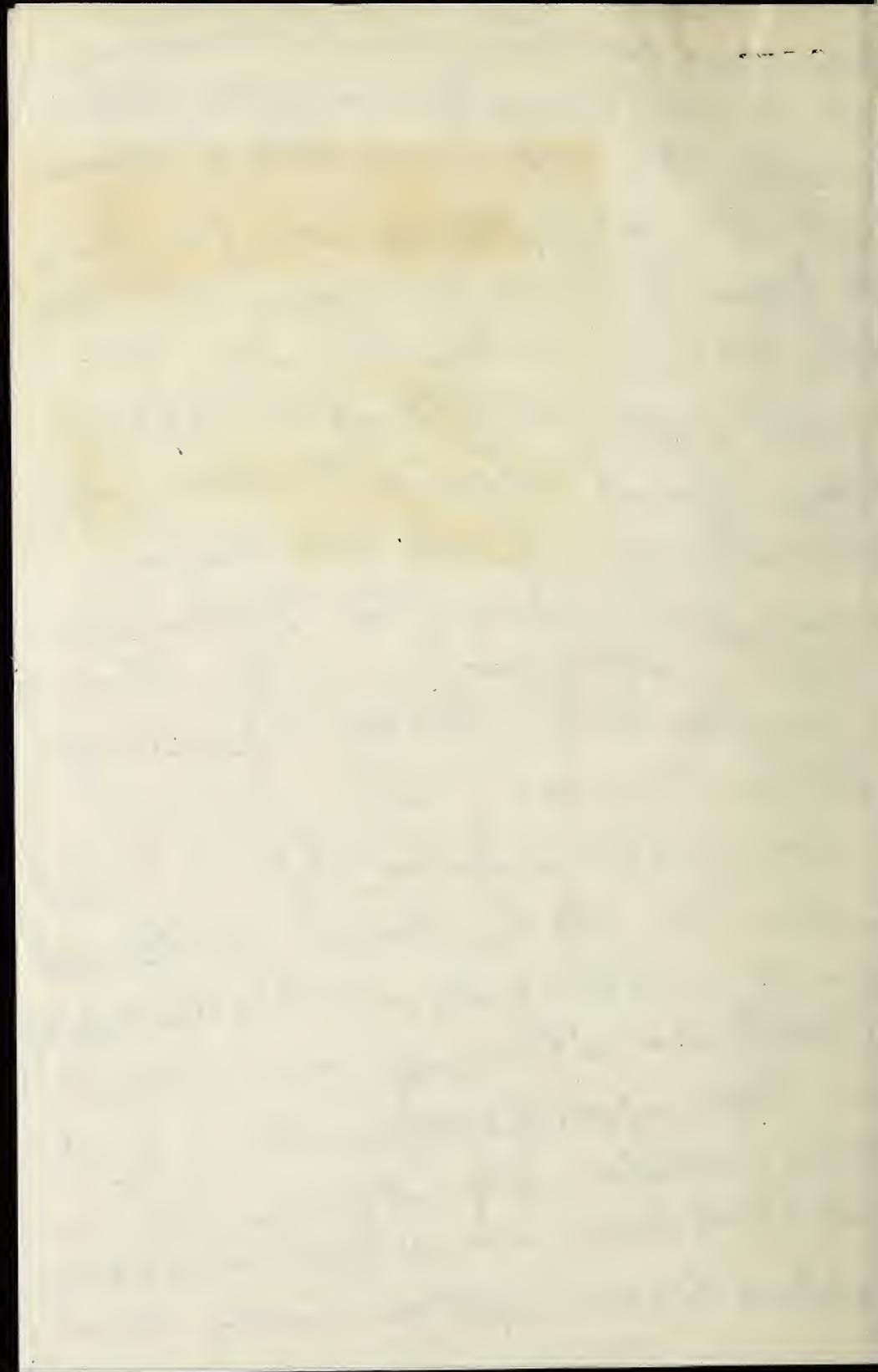
Yours very truly,

Gladys G. (Hew-

(Mrs. Walter) M.)

(2.)

He was a tall man much the same
in build as Mr. Lincoln so after Mrs. S.
death this man was asked to pose
while a sculptor was finishing
a figure of Mr. Lincoln. It seemed
the man put his hand in the
breast pocket of the suit he had been
worn and he found this beautiful
handkerchief which had been
used to mop up the blood from
Mr. Lincoln's wound. When this
Warden took the handkerchief
to Mrs. Lincoln she pushed
it away and said, "Oh no - I don't
want it - its his blood" She turned
away with a sob. So this Mrs. Ripley
had the handkerchief - she showed
me two cards the appointment of
this warden signed A. Lincoln
if I had been smart I would have
asked for one of those cards - that



November 26, 1946

Mrs. Walter M. Chew
Route 1, Box 413
Paradise, California

My dear Mrs. Chew:

The only reference I can find to a suit of Lincoln's clothes that were used by a sculptor after his death is a suit that Mrs. Lincoln gave to Alphonse Bonn, who was a personal aid of the president. This suit was later used by Dinnie Rean, a sculptor, and also by a sculptor with the name of Wilson. No mention, however, is made of the handkerchief found in the pocket.

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:CRS
L.A.Warren

Rt. 3 Box 3936

Paradise, Calif.

7/20/47

Dr. Lewis L. Wood

Fort Wayne, Indiana

My dear Dr. Wood:

In 1917-18 while teaching
in a country school in Calif. I boarded
with an 84 year old woman whose
first husband was warden of the
Federal Penitentiary at the time
when Abraham Lincoln was President.
After the assassination this warden
who was the size and build of Lincoln,
was asked to pose for a statue. He
wore one of the President's suits -
in the breast pocket of the coat he
found a beautifully embroidered
handkerchief that Mrs. Lincoln had
carried to the theater the tragic
night when Mr. Lincoln was shot.
She had used it to wipe up some blood
so by that time, altho' the blood was
dry it had made holes in the linen. When
he took the handkerchief to Mrs. Lin-
coln she pushed it away and
said "I don't want it, its his blood."
This woman, with whom I lived,

enjoyed a Lincoln's Day program
my school put on. That evening
of the program, she dragged out an
old horse-hair trunk, and brought out
many treasures such as two
cards appointing this man as
warden signed by Pres. Lincoln
^{in his vesticle handwriting} also this
handkerchief with holes that
had been made by the blood.
This she gave to me.

I understand you are the
best authority on that period in history.
Could you give me the name
of the warden of the national
penitentiary when Lincoln
was President? I would appreciate
this very much so have
enclosed a self addressed stamped
envelope.

Yours very truly,

Gladys B. Chew
(Mrs. Walter M.)

November 17, 1947

Mrs. Walter M. Chew
Route #3, Box 3936
Paradise, California

My dear Mrs. Chew:

A year ago you wrote to us about the handkerchief said to have been Mr. Lincoln's and I think we wrote you in reply to that letter that we could make no discovery of any suit of clothes other than the one loaned to Dinnie Rean.

We have not been able to find any other information relative to the suit at that time.

Very truly yours,

Director

LAW:CM
L.A.Warren

